



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

State of the EMCDDA key epidemiological indicator 'Problem Drug Use'

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EMCDDA, 25 October 2012

Problem drug use key indicator

- To look at the more harmful, heavy forms of drug use
- Presently, it contains:
 - A definition (umbrella definition)
 - drug-type (opioids, cocaine and amphetamines)
 - and a broadly described behavioural pattern (injecting and/or long-duration and/or regular use)
 - Methods and data sources (traditionally using indirect methods)
- In revision



Overview of the PDU work (2012)

- Technical assistance and trainings
- Implementation assessment (now feedback from countries)

- Literature review to support PDU revision
- Overview of studies using non-TDI data sources
- Consolidation of opioids estimates understanding
- Project testing the possibilities of interpolation

- Updating the PDU prevalence guidelines
- (Drafting cannabis scales guidelines)



- Final PDU Revision proposal
- Strengthening IDU estimates

- Cannabis daily use in EU – technical paper
- EU scales validation project – results phase

- Working together with other indicator areas in-house (e.g. DRD, TDI, GPS) and including external experts (e.g. session at GPS meeting on stimulants estimates)
- Development of collaboration with waste-water analysts – preparation of conference



Overview of the PDU work soon foreseen (2013+)

- Final Indirect prevalence estimation guidelines
- Final Cannabis scales guidelines
- Improvement of EMCDDA web-site (PDU resources and small topic-related pages)
- To continue the work on incidence estimation (project every few years, collaboration with TDI)
- Stimulants estimates will need more thinking
- Mixed-methods approach in data analysis and reporting
- Wastewater conference





“Testing the waters”

International multidisciplinary conference on detecting illicit drugs in wastewater
6 May to 11 May 2013

Multidisciplinary dialogue of chemists, toxicologists, pharmacologists and drug epidemiologists to understand wastewater analysis aimed at drug metabolites.

**Chaired by: Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA
Co-chaired by: Kevin Thomas, Norwegian Institute for Water Research
Sara Castiglioni, Mario Negri Institute, Milan, Italy**



Universitätszentrum Obergurgl,
Obergurgl, Austria

PDU guidelines update

- Merging two documents (1999 Local prevalence guidelines and 2004 National prevalence guidelines)
- Updating literature, concepts and definitions section and country examples
- Addition of some new sections



Structure of the updated guidelines

PART I - Preparation of the estimation work and theoretical background

- Introduction
- Definitions
- Data needs and data sources
- Types of models
- Methods
- Geographic coverage
- Ethical issues



PART II - Working with the data

- Process issues
 - Data cleaning, data analysis, synthesis of several estimates derived by different methods, combining estimates with other data sources
- Good practice in prevalence estimation
- Interpretation
- Reporting to the EMCDDA
- Literature

Comments? Peer review? Restricted area for a period of time?



Overview of the meeting

Thursday, 25 October

- Introduction, applied PDU, ongoing projects
- PDU revision consultation
- New national studies

Friday, 26 October

- Changing face of PDU
- New drugs
- Incidence and EU projects
- Strengthening IDU estimates



Barriers to IDU estimation - questionnaire

- Four questions
- In your folder
- Please do fill in before lunch break and leave on your table



Barriers to IDU estimation – short questionnaire

Dear colleague,

I am kindly asking you for your collaboration by filling in this short questionnaire. The reason for it is the relatively low availability of IDU estimates (only 12 EU countries, Norway and Croatia were able to provide estimates referring to 2005 or more recent year), which is sharply contrasting with their public health importance.

1. My country, _____

was

able to provide a recent IDU estimate (referring to 2008 or later year) to the EMCDDA.

was not

2. The main reason of the lack of availability of a recent estimate is:

The injecting status is not collected at the data source(s) level(s)

Problems with funding

Lack of expertise

Other reasons (please specify):

3. Is there any way the EMCDDA can support your country in obtaining and providing a recent IDU estimate?

4. Other, including general, comments